IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A configuration for n consumers of electric energy, of which m consumers are supplied simultaneously with energy, wherein at any time $m < n$, and whereby a modular energy supply comprising k energy modules is provided, and whereby the sum of the power supplyable by the k energy modules is smaller than the power which would be necessary, if all n consumers simultaneously required electrical power, wherein a control is provided which connects as many energy modules to respective one of the m consumers so that this consumer receives the power required by said consumer.

22. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein that the consumers are sputter installations, with each cathode of a sputter installation having its own arc management.

23. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by DC current.

24. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by AC current.

25. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by pulsed DC current.

26. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 22, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.

27. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 23, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.

28. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 24, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.

29. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the consumers are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes to which one pole reversal unit is assigned.

30. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the consumers are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes, of which the one cathode is connected to a pole of an AC voltage and the other cathode to the other pole of this AC voltage.

31. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 22, wherein a pulse generator is assigned to each cathode.

32. (currently amended) The configuration of claim 21, wherein each of the k energy modules have the same electrical power.